

LIST OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting enteric bacteria having fimbriae, comprising detecting said bacteria ~~having fimbriae~~ from a cultivation medium within the time period of 3 to 10 hours from the onset of cultivation, by detecting fimbrial antigens which are expressed ~~soon after inoculation~~ into the medium, ~~and~~ before an actual logarithmic growth phase of the bacteria or in the beginning of the logarithmic growth phase.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the ~~baeterial~~ fimbrial antigens are detected immunologically using antibodies.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~baeterial~~ fimbrial antigens are detected in 3 to 4.5 hours after the onset of the cultivation.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the detected fimbrial antigens are proteins.

Clam 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the fimbrial ~~proteins~~ antigens are type 1 fimbriae proteins ~~or comparable to them~~.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the ~~microbial~~ fimbrial antigens are detected with antibodies, which have been produced against the synthetic peptide sequence Ala Ser Phe Thr Ala Ile Gly Asp Thr Thr Ala Gln Val Pro Phe Ser Ile Val SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~or a derivative thereof~~.

Claim 21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~14~~ ~~21~~, wherein the detected bacteria are ~~fecal coliforms~~ pathogenic enteric bacteria.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the detected bacteria belong to the genus *Salmonella*.

Claims 24-26. (Canceled)